

REMARKS

DRAWINGS

The objections to the drawings have been noted. Corrected drawings will be submitted after the receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

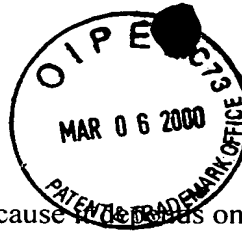
CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112

The word "a" has been inserted before "substantially vertical mast" to introduce this element.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claim 1 stands rejected as being independently anticipated by Wallace, Wilford and Kingsbury, respectively. The Examiner postulates that each of these references shows blades that sweep out a virtual disk, when rotated. Claim 1, however, recites, "a set of rotatable blades that sweep out a virtual disk, having the properties of a lifting body when they are rapidly rotated by the mast." Because the Examiner has not taken the position that the blades in the cited references sweep out a virtual disk "having the properties of a lifting body," it would appear that the rejection is per se not proper and that no final rejection should be issued in the next Office Action.

The issue of whether or not any references are in fact anticipatory appears likely to arise in this case, and so it will be addressed here. It is interesting to note that no cited references advance the notion that their drawings show a blade set that assumes the properties of a lifting body when rotated. Nevertheless, one could suggest that the blade sets shown in the cited references accidentally anticipate claim 1. No reasoned interpretation of the drawings, however, could suggest that they accidentally anticipate the present invention. The propeller of the Kingsbury patent clearly provides lift due to its rotation, rather than any lifting effect when pushed through the air. In the Wilford et al. patent, the angles are much too sharp (see FIG. 5) to achieve a beneficial aerodynamic effect. Finally, in the Wallace patent, there is a disk structure 17 that is in the shape of a lifting body. The associated blades 18, however, do not curve downwardly toward their distal ends to create a virtual disk having lifting body properties when rotated.



Claim 2 is novel and nonobvious because it depends on claim 1, which is novel and nonobvious.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

A terminal disclaimer is being submitted herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are sincerely requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 21, 2000.

Dated: February 28, 2000


Rachael Ellyce Shulman